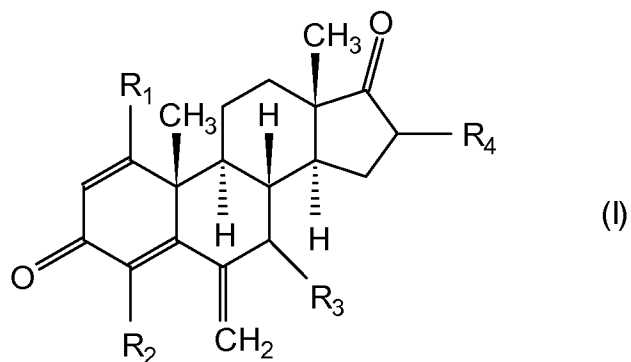


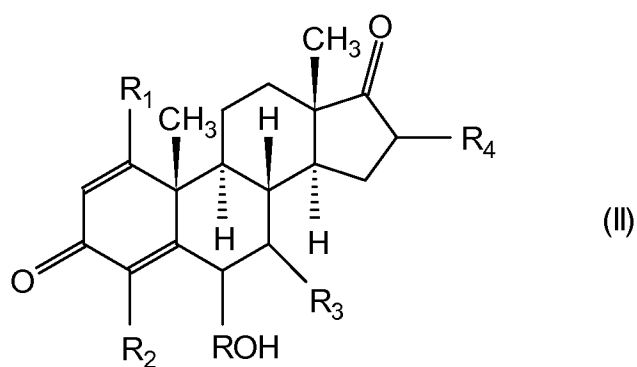
## Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) A method for preparing a compound of formula (I)

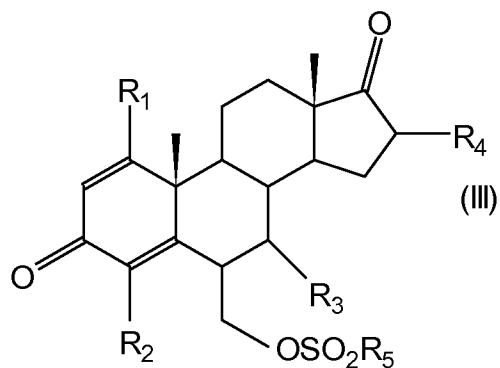


wherein each of R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, independently, is hydrogen, halogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, the method comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (II)



wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> are as defined above and R is alkylene, with a deprotonating agent and a compound of the formula R<sub>5</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>X wherein R<sub>5</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl and X is halogen so as to obtain a compound of formula (III)



wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub> are as defined above; and  
 reacting the compound of formula (III) with a base.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
 wherein each of R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
 R is methylene.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
 the deprotonating agent is an amine.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
 the deprotonating agent is a tertiary amine.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
 the deprotonating agent is a trialkyl amine.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
 R<sub>5</sub> is methyl.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
 R<sub>5</sub> is methyl and X is chlorine.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
wherein each of R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen,  
R is methylene,  
the deprotonating agent is a trialkyl amine,  
R<sub>5</sub> is methyl, and  
X is chlorine.

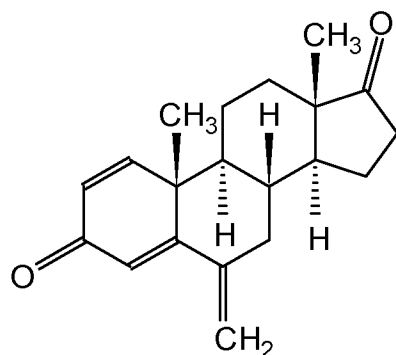
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
the base is an alkali metal hydroxide.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
the base is potassium hydroxide.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
the compound of formula (III) is reacted with the base in a solvent.

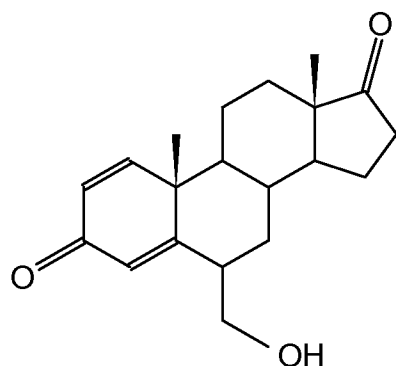
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
the solvent is an alkanol.

14. (Original) A method for preparing a compound of formula



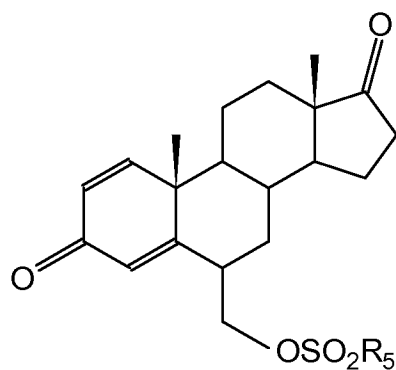
the method comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (V)



(V)

with a deprotonating agent and a compound of the formula  $R_5SO_2X$  wherein  $R_5$  is  $C_1$ - $C_5$  alkyl and X is halogen so as to obtain a compound of formula (VI)



(VI)

and then reacting the compound of formula (VI) with a base in a solvent.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein:  
R<sub>5</sub> is methyl and X is chlorine.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein:  
the base is an alkali metal hydroxide, and  
the solvent is an alkanol.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)